



News Release

Arizona Department of Public Safety

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arizona Department of Public Safety Traffic Stop on I-40 yields 5.5 Pounds of Heroin

On August 27, 2007, an Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) highway patrolman stopped a Dodge pickup truck with one occupant for a traffic violation. While speaking with the driver, Madian Santos, the officer noticed numerous indicators of criminal activity and asked for consent to search the vehicle.

A search of the vehicle with the help of canine "Rebel" revealed 5.5 pounds of heroin wrapped in a plastic container inside the engine's manifold.

Santos, who is 36 years old, resides in North Carolina. He told DPS investigators he was driving from Bakersfield, Calif. to North Carolina. He said he was an undocumented alien from Mexico.

This is the second large seizure of heroin in northern Arizona in the past year to be found in an engine's intake manifold. The heroin is estimated to be worth around \$120,000. Santos was booked into the Mohave County Jail on drug charges.

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.